

ATTACHMENT A
Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12-14 are pending in the present application. Applicant gratefully appreciates the Examiner extending a personal interview to his representative, Mr. Stephen Weyer, on September 13, 2007. In accordance with that interview, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9, and added new claims 13 and 14. Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by WO 84/04367 (hereinafter "WO '367"), and claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being anticipated over WO '367, further in view of Massa '048.

Claim 1 has been amended to now recite a hydromechanical chuck having an end for releasably holding a shaft tool, and comprising an inner sleeve with an axial bore for receiving a shaft of the shaft tool, wherein the axial bore is provided with a stop for preventing the tool from being inserted too far into the axial bore. In a similar manner, claim 9 has been amended to now recite a hydromechanical mandrel having an end for releasably holding a tool in which the end for releasably holding the tool has a stop for preventing the tool from being inserted too far into the mandrel. Subject matter basis for the amendments to claims 1 and 9 can be found in the specification as filed, including Figs. 1, 2 and 6, and in the specification, page 7, lines 17-18 and 27-30. By this Amendment, Applicant has submitted replacement Fig. 1, which now identifies the previously depicted, but not specifically identified, stop member 25 and small bore 26, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), and Applicant has amended the

ATTACHMENT D
Amendments to the Drawings

The attached Replacement sheet of drawings includes the following changes:

in Fig. 1: reference number 25 has been added to identify the stop member; and reference number 26 has been added to identify the small bore.

The Replacement sheet replaces the original or previously filed corresponding sheet having the same figures.

specification accordingly to refer to the replacement figure sheet. Since the specification, as filed, provides subject matter support for the amendment to the claims and specification, this amendment does not constitute new matter.

Claims 1 and 9 (currently amended) are distinguishable over the cited prior art of WO '367, as WO '367 fails to teach or in any way make obvious a stop for preventing the tool from being inserted too far into the axial bore (claim 1, currently amended) or into the receiving end of the mandrel (claim 9, currently amended). Moreover, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify WO '367 to have a stop, as the device of WO '367 is a coupling device and, therefore, there would fail to be any reasonably apparent reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would modify the device of WO '367 to include a stop for coupling drive shafts and the like.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 12 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of WO '367, individually or in combination with Massa '048.

Finally, by this Amendment, Applicant has added new claims 13 and 14, dependent from claims 1 and 9, respectively, which further define the stop as comprising a stop member in the form of a partial rear wall with the subject matter basis for the new claims being found in Figs. 1 and 6, as filed. Accordingly, new claims 13 and 14 do not constitute new matter.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.

END REMARKS